

Rongelap and the need to continue the decision-making process of the resettlement of Rongelap by the local atoll government, rather than directly by the Department of the Interior. However, the legislation was also in recognition that the Department of the Interior had done a good job carrying out the resettlement policies embodied in Section 103(i) of Public Law 99-239, Public Law 102-154, and Section 118(d) of Public Law 104-134. Specifically, in the bill, we agreed to continue for at least another ten years the current program under which the Rongelap Atoll Local Government (RALGOV) manages the Rongelap Resettlement Trust Fund and determines its use to achieve the resettlement goals defined by the Rongelap people and address their current condition of dislocation.

On October 26, 1999, the House unanimously approved H.R. 2970, to extend by law the program for the resettlement of Rongelap which has been established by the Department of the Interior as directed by Congress under statutes authorizing resettlement assistance. The bill was referred to the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, which is chaired by my good friend from Alaska, Senator FRANK MURKOWSKI. I believe the Senate's willingness to take consideration of H.R. 2970 if the current policy were not continued by agreement between DOI and RALGOV contributed directly to the recent conclusion of just such an agreement.

What the DOI and RALGOV have now agreed to and accepted are indeed the same result as would have obtained under H.R. 2970. This outcome could have been accomplished by agreement of the parties or enactment of legislation, and I am pleased that the House action approving H.R. 2970 and the Senate's support for the underlying policy led the parties to take the initiative and agree to extend that policy for ten years as the House bill provided.

While the Secretary of Interior necessarily retains the power to disapprove use of the trust fund in a way that does not advance resettlement or address the conditions of dislocation, we believe RALGOV established a good record administering the resettlement program. Use of up to 50% of the annual earnings of the trust fund for local government operations so that it can bear the costs and burdens of administering the resettlement program has proven the efficient and economical way to carry out the resettlement program.

Without enabling the local government to support and manage the resettlement program directly, a community decision-making process and administrative structure that would duplicate the local government would have to be created to manage the resettlement process. Instead, the local government has taken responsibility for resettlement, dealing with dislocation and resettlement have become the central organizing mission and purpose of the local government instead of a program being carried out by the U.S. government. This has a democratic institution building effect for the community, and ensures a stable policy and program. This is important for planning purposes because resettlement is a long term project the ground rules for which should not change unless there is a good reason for it.

I commend the Rongelap Atoll Local Government for its successful management of

Phase I of the resettlement program. Mayor James Matayoshi has improved local government operations in order to make RALGOV administration of resettlement possible. Coordination and cooperation between the local council and the Marshall Islands government is enabling far greater progress than anyone expected. With the extension of the agreement for ten years, Rongelap leaders can confidently engage in long-term planning and take action locally consistent with the federally-funded resettlement plan to move forward in the process of both physical resettlement, radiological rehabilitation, and cultural recovery that is taking place under the resettlement program.

Following is the agreement by the Department of the Interior with the Rongelap Atoll Local Government, dated March 10, 2000:

MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT ON IMPLEMENTATION OF THE "AGREEMENT REGARDING UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE IN THE RESETTLEMENT OF RONGELAP CONCLUDED BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND THE RONGELAP ATOLL LOCAL GOVERNMENT"

1. With respect to implementation of the "Agreement Regarding United States Assistance in the Resettlement of Rongelap Concluded Between the United States Department of the Interior and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government", dated September 19, 1996, as amended, it is hereby agreed that Section 3 thereof, as amended effective September 29, 1999, shall terminate at the end of fiscal year 2010, unless extended thereafter by agreement of the Secretary of the Interior or applicable law.

2. This agreement shall enter into full effect upon its signature on behalf of the United States Department of the Interior and the Rongelap Atoll Local Government.

Date: March 10, 2000.

JOHN BERRY,
Assistant Secretary for
Policy, Management
and Budget.

For the United States Department of the Interior.

Date: March 10, 2000.

HOWARD HILLS,
Counsel for Resettle-
ment Affairs.

For the Rongelap Atoll Local Government.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GARY G. MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2000 I had to return to my district in order to attend to personal business. During my absence, I missed roll call votes 53, 54, and 55.

Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on Mr. BOEHLERT's substitute amendment to H.R. 2372. I would have voted "no" on the motion to recommit H.R. 2372 with instructions. I would have voted "yes" to pass H.R. 2373, the "Private Property Rights Implementation Act of 2000".

TRIBUTE TO EAST TEXAS
LITERACY COUNCIL

HON. RALPH M. HALL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the East Texas Literacy Council, which recently was selected to be the first literacy agency in the nation to receive accreditation from Literacy Volunteers of America. The Literacy Council is well known in my district for its outstanding work in promoting adult literacy, and it is with a great sense of pride that I join citizens and officials of Longview, TX, and Gregg County in paying tribute to those community leaders and volunteers who have contributed so much to the success of this organization.

Literacy Volunteers of America is a national, nonprofit organization consisting of more than 375 community programs in 42 states. The organization delivers local literacy services through a network of more than 50,000 volunteers nationwide who have helped more than half a million adults and their families gain literacy skills. It is quite an accomplishment for the East Texas Literacy Council to be chosen as the first local affiliate in the nation to receive accreditation from the Literacy Volunteers—and it is a testament to the dedication, hard work and quality of service of the Literacy Council's staff and volunteers.

The East Texas Literacy Council was founded as a community-based, nonprofit organization in 1987. Through collaboration with other community agencies, the Literacy Council provides opportunities for adults in Gregg County to develop the basic literacy skills necessary to attain self-sufficiency and to function successfully in their community. Last year more than 500 adults benefitted from this program—almost 200 learning basic literacy skills and more than 300 learning English as a Second Language. These adults were instructed by more than 100 volunteer tutors who received ten hours of basic literacy training.

Executive Director of the East Texas Literacy Council is Freda Peppard, who has provided effective leadership for the organization over the past nine years. Current officers of the Board of Directors are Mary Price, president; Clement Dunn, vice president; Jerre Jouett, secretary; and Jennifer Slade, treasurer. Others who have been instrumental in the Council's success include Cissy Ward, longtime community leader who helped organize the East Texas Literacy Council and became its first Executive Director, and Retta Kelly, formerly publisher of the Longview News-Journal, who served as the Council's first Board president. Another influential community leader, Nancy Jackson, served as Executive Director following Mrs. Ward's tenure. Mrs. Ward and Mrs. Jackson continue to advise and work with the Council.

The East Texas Literacy Council is a community success story—and an example of what can be accomplished through public/private funding and through community-based partnerships. Funding sources for the Literacy Council include the United Way, Community Development Block Grant funding and various

fund-raising initiatives. Affiliations include Longview Partnership, Laubach Literacy Action, The Nonprofit Coalition and Literacy Volunteers of America.

Mr. Speaker, the cost of illiteracy to individuals, to their families and to society is enormous. Literacy programs, such as those sponsored by the East Texas Literacy Council, are vital in our efforts to help individuals acquire the skills they need to be productive citizens and to be able to support themselves and their families. It is a privilege to pay tribute today to this exemplary literacy organization in the Fourth District of Texas—the East Texas Literacy Council—and to those dedicated staff members and volunteers whose hard work has helped make this organization such a success.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, on Thursday, March 16, 2000, during debate of H.R. 2372, the Property Takings legislation, I was unavoidably detained due to a prior family commitment. Unfortunately, I was unable to vote on rollcall votes 53, 54, and 55. Had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall vote 53, the Boehlert substitute, "no" on rollcall vote 54, the Motion to Recommit, and "yes" on final passage of the bill—rollcall vote 55.

HONORING ZETA BETA TAU FRATERNITY AND ROGER WILLIAMS DAY

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I applaud Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, my brotherhood, for celebrating the life of Roger Williams, founder of the colony of Rhode Island, and a strong supporter of religious and political liberty.

In 1631, clergyman Roger Williams, left England, a land where he was dubbed a non-conformist and was persecuted for his religious beliefs, and came to the Massachusetts Bay Colony in America. Along with him came his wife and great wind of change, idealism and freedom. He would be called a troublemaker, because he believed that the royal charter did not justify taking land that belonged to the Native Americans and declared that people should not be punished for religious differences. In 1664, he published his most famous work, "The Bloudy Tenent of Persecution", which upheld his argument for the separation of church and state. In 1657, as president of the Rhode Island colony, he fought to provide refuge for Quakers who had been banished from other colonies, even though he disagreed with their religious teachings.

Today, as a member of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, I join my brotherhood in remembering

and recognizing Roger Williams as an early champion of democracy and religious freedom. As we struggle against religious intolerance throughout our world, we should look to men, such as Roger Williams, who stood for freedom, in a world of persecution.

I am proud to be a member of the distinguished brotherhood of Zeta Beta Tau Fraternity, a organization of young men who are dedicating this day to the principles of tolerance, understanding, and brotherly love, by remembering Roger Williams.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, due to a commitment in my district on Tuesday, March 21, 2000, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall numbers 56 and 57. The votes I missed include rollcall vote 56 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Con. Res. 288, Recognizing the importance of families and children in the United States and expressing support for the goals and ideas of National Family Day; and rollcall vote 57 on Suspending the Rules and Agreeing to H. Res. 182, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the National Park Service should take full advantage of support services offered by the Department of Defense.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 56 and 57.

HONORING 20TH CENTURY WOMEN

HON. KAREN MCCARTHY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise in celebration of extraordinary women of the 20th Century. Throughout our history women artists such as Missouri author, Laura Ingalls Wilder, have brought about needed social change in our State and Nation. Today, I honor a recording artist From Kennett, Missouri who has maintained strong ties to our State. Sheryl Crow joins a list of Missouri women who have contributed to an extraordinary century of women.

Ms. Crow's parents were big band musicians who encouraged her musical skills at an early age. She began playing the piano around the age of six and composed her first song at age 13. In the 1990's, Sheryl Crow forcefully expressed her thoughts and emotions on social causes such as youth violence, addressed in her platinum album lyrics, "Watch out sister, Watch out brother/Watch our children as they kill each other/With a gun they brought at the Wal-Mart discount stores" in her ongoing battle with the discount giant over guns and children. In retribution, Wal-Mart refused to sell her award winning records. A Florida State Supreme Court eventually ruled against Wal-Mart for illegally selling ammunition to minors who used the bullets to kill a Pensacola man.

Ms. Crow's music encompasses her personal experience and her passionately held beliefs to electrify audiences. Inspired by the likes of Walt Whitman and Bob Dylan, Sheryl Crow has influenced a generation of women to artistry and activism. Her ability to span generations and musical tastes has led Ms. Crow to be one of the most sought after musicians of our time. Her reputation for taking risks is demonstrated by her professional and personal courage to make mistakes and to achieve success. Her song, "My Favorite Mistake," reminds us that we must all have the courage to take risks in order to create something worthwhile.

In 1994 Sheryl Crow won Gammy Awards for Best New Artist, Record of the Year, and Best Female Pop Vocal Performance for her hit "All I Wanna Do." Two years later, the singer/songwriter won Grammys for Best Rock Album and Best Female Rock Vocal Performance for the song, "If It Makes You Happy." Her 1998 double platinum album, "The Globe Sessions" was named Best Rock Album at the 1999 Grammy Awards. Her latest effort, "Sweet Child O' Mine," received the 2000 Grammy for Best Female Rock Vocal Performance. Her peers in the music industry and her many dedicated fans have recognized Ms. Crow as a gifted musician and a woman empowered to inspire others.

Sheryl Crow cares passionately about eliminating the use of land mines, as demonstrated by her recent efforts in Southeast Asia on behalf of the victims of such weapons of war. The artist has journeyed to Capitol Hill in support of debt relief for the world's most impoverished nations. Ms. Crow has been an outspoken advocate of women's rights and has highlighted her concerns about youth violence issues in songs such as "Love is a Good Thing." I share her belief that one of the most effective ways of reducing youth violence in our culture is to support arts education in schools.

Ms. Crow exemplifies the positive value of artistic expression. I salute Sheryl Crow for being an inspiration as an artist and advocate. Her efforts to make the world a better place will continue to contribute to a better future in the new millennium. "For all you wanna do," Sheryl Crow, Missouri women thank you for your artistry, advocacy, your commitment to the Campaign for a Landmine Free World and a better life for our children.

COMMENDING THE WISCONSIN HISPANIC CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

HON. GERALD D. KLECZKA

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 22, 2000

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to commend the Wisconsin Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, which I'm proud to say is located in my district, for the outstanding job it has done to help Milwaukee's Hispanic community thrive. I would like to especially note the work of one of its leaders, Maria Monreal-Cameron, President of the Chamber. Her ceaseless energy and countless efforts on behalf of the Hispanic